(c) if so, whether Government is considering to encourage the foreign investment in defence sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. FDI in its wake would enhance the technical and management efficiency of Indian companies.

(b) to (d) FDI in Defence Industry Sector is permissible, upto 26% of equity, subject to approval of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Ministry of Finance. As per our records there is no instance of foreign companies withdrawing their support on account of lack of incentives.

Delay in implementation of Coastal Security Schemes

619. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the country's coastline still far from being secure even a year after terrorists struck Mumbai from the sea;

(b) if so, whether the various schemes announced by Government to beef up coastal security have not even been commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement the schemes announced for coastal security in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government has accorded top priority to coastal security and for this purpose an integrated approach has been put in place to counter such incidents in future. The intelligence — sharing mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi agency coordination mechanism. The coastal surveillance and patrolling has been enhanced. Joint and operational exercises are taking place on regular basis between Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police and Customs in order to check the effectiveness of the new systems. Further strengthening of ships, air assets, manpower and other equipment like radars is an on-going process keeping in view the threat perception.

Rise in stress level of soldiers due to continuous deployment

620. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that continuous deployment has resulted in a sharp rise in the stress level of soldiers, as evident from a large number of stress-related diseases like hypertension, hear ailments and psychiatric problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof in the Army, Air Force and Navy divisions; and

(c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) As far as continuous deployment of soldiers is concerned, rotation of personnel deployed in sensitive/stressful situations is ensured. No sharp increase in diseases like hypertension, heart disease and psychiatric illness, amongst Armed Forces personnel has been noticed in the recent past. Further, such diseases are not solely attributable to their deployment.

However, the Government has been continuously taking measures for reducing stress among the Armed Forces personnel. Some of the steps taken are:-

(i) Counselling on stress management by trained and qualified Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Nursing Assistants.

(ii) State Governments have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.

(iii) Stress related issues are addressed by the Commanders through Group discussions/ workshops/ counselling session/ stress management courses.

(iv) Utilization of religious teachers to counsel troops.

(v) Leave policy has been liberalized.

(vi) All personnel returning to unit after leave are interviewed and medically examined by the Regimental Medical Officer. Any stress marker is looked for and motivational talk is rendered.

(vii) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.

Arms acquisition proposals cleared by DAC

621. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of Ministry of Defence met in August to have discussion on several acquisitions for armed forces such as proposed acquisition of six more submarines for Indian Navy as well as air defence missiles and guns for Army;

(b) if so, following this civil aviation and Indian Air Force authorities had earlier formed a joint strategy to ensure comprehensive air defence security besides to have beefing up security at airports; and

(c) if so, to what extent acquisition have been cleared and completed and to what extent Navy and Air Force and Army are combining to meet threat posed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) was held in August, 2009 to consider various capital acquisition